



Advice **Hobo Fishing Advice: Using Baits and Lures**

(self.vagabond)

submitted 17 hours ago by [huckstah](#) **Trainhopper / Hitchhiker**

Live Bait / Dead Bait / Lures

After you have chosen the type of pole and line you are going to use, your next objective is to get some bait or lures.

- [Live Bait](#)

Bait is generally made of "real" substance, as opposed to artificial lures, and it is the easiest/cheapest type of bait for a vagabond to use.

Bait includes minnows, crickets, worms, beetles, grubs, and other natural forms of live bait. These items use live-natural motion and/or natural scent to attract fish, as opposed to plastic lures that simply use color and/or artificial imitation.

During the spring, summer, and fall, you should have no problem finding live bait along the banks of whatever waters you are

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fishing.

If you see a patch of high grass, walk through the grass in order stir up the grasshoppers and crickets.

If you see some rocks or dirt banks, lift the rocks or dig up the dirt to find some worms and nightcrawlers.

If you see a fallen tree or rotting stump, break apart the tree/stump and find some grubs, maggots, termites, and beetles.

Also, keep in mind that just about any critter you find along the banks can be used as live bait. Frogs/toads, lizards, salamanders, crayfish (crawfish), large spiders, dragonflies, bees, wasps, or just about anything else you can safely catch and put on a hook without getting bit or stung.

Live bait is best used as a "floating bait". This means you don't use any weights or sinkers, and you simply let the bait float on top of the water.

Live bait is definitely the most effective way of catching most, if not all, types of fish. On any given day, live bait will beat artificial lures no matter what type of fish you are trying to catch, whether you are fishing creeks, rivers, ponds, or lakes.

For the hobo with not alot of money/access to fishing supplies, live bait is definitely the best choice to use in any given fishing situation, period.

- [Dead Bait](#)

If you clicked the link, you may think I accidentally submitted a picture of the typical hobo lunch. WRONG.

That lunch that you have stowed away in your backpack isn't just

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delicious to you, but it's also delicious to most types of freshwater fish as well.

Spam, beanie weenies, hot dogs, chicken livers, anchovies, sardines, herring, corn kernels, bread balls, chunks of fat, are all examples of using dead bait, and they are all EXTREMELY effective when compared to artificial lures and plastic baits.

Most dead baits are used most effectively by letting them sink to the bottom of the water, or attaching them to a bobber/floater and letting the bait sink about 12-18 inches below the surface of the water. Dead baits primarily work on scent alone, so your bait will work best when it submerged into the water as opposed to floating on the top. Fortunately, most dead baits naturally sink without requiring weights or sinkers.

If you don't have any food in your pack, most dead baits can be purchased for under 5 dollars at any gas station or grocery market, making it an affordable and accessible bait to obtain for the vagabond.

- [Lures](#)

If you want to make your kit more versatile, any serious angler (fisherman) is going to have a decent supply of various lures that are meant for specific types of fish.

However, we are vagabonds. We don't have tons of cash to spend on expensive lures, nor do we have the space to carry a huge kit of lures designed for every single type of fish we wish to catch.

Fortunately, vagabonds can buy just a few different types of lures that will generally work for most types of fish, and they only cost a

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few dollars.

Rooster-tails and Spinners:

The most versatile lures you can get for catching almost any type of fish in North America are [rooster-tails and spinner jigs](#).

Bass, Crappie, Bluegill, Perch, Trout, Salmon, Carp, and just about any freshwater fish in North America will go after a simple rooster-tail or spinner jig.

They are also very easy to use, and don't require any sinkers, weights, or float/bobbers.

Simply tie the rooster-tail/spinner to the end of your line, cast out, and slowly reel in. Don't be surprised if you get a strike on your first or second cast, but don't give up if it takes a little longer.

Remember that no matter what lure/bait you are using, patience is the most important strategy of fishing.

Plastic Worms, Lizards, Grubs:

Much like rooster-tails and spinners, [plastic worms, lizards, and grubs](#) are extremely effective, and they are among the most popular types of lures used by most freshwater fisherman. Why?? Because they work!

However, just like rooster-tails and spinners, you'll never know what type of fish you'll catch with these, as they are designed for just about any type of fish that's hungry. Bass, Crappie, Trout, Salmon, they all love a good ole' cheap plastic worm that's swimming through the waters.

Using these lures are similar to using rooster-tails or spinners. These lures naturally sink or float below the surface of the water,

and you simply cast them out, and reel back in slowly.

Top-Water Floating Lures:

Unlike rooster-tails, spinners, and artificial worms, lizards, and grubs, [top-water floating lures](#) do exactly as the name suggests: They FLOAT!

Aside from bottom-fishing (allowing your bait to sit idle at the bottom), using floating lures is an extremely easy and lazy method of fishing.

However, don't let "easy" or "lazy" lead you think that these lures do not work, because they are extremely effective at catching fish, especially a hungry bass or trout that are waiting for critters to fall on the water's surface from nearby bushes and trees.

To use a floating lure, simply cast out, and let your lure float on top of the water. Be patient, and keep your eye on that lure. If nothing strikes, jerk your pole a little or reel in slowly for a couple of feet, and let it float for a few more minutes. Repeat this process, be patient, and sit back and let your lure do the work.

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